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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 10, 2005

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JOHN PETTIFORD SENTENCED

On May 26, 2005 Judge Hugh Lawson sentenced John Pettiford, formerly a resident of Ty Ty, Georgia, to ten years in Federal Prison, the maximum sentence for the offense of conviction. Pettiford had earlier entered a guilty plea to a charge of causing another person to travel in interstate commerce in the execution of a scheme to defraud. Using his brother's name and credit history, Pettiford made arrangements to obtain two pieces of heavy equipment through a company operating out of Ladson, South Carolina. Pettiford supplied the company with two fraudulent checks for the down payment on each and had arranged financing through John Deere. By the time it was discovered that the checks were not good and the financing was obtained fraudulently, Pettiford had taken the equipment out of state to be sold.

Pettiford has an extensive history of convictions for similar frauds involving both heavy equipment and produce.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Don Johnston.

Any questions concerning this matter should be addressed to Sue McKinney, Public Affairs Specialist, United States Attorney's Office, at (478) 621-2602.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Maxwell Wood by D. F. Patton

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